



**WITNESS TO GOD'S GRACE**  
JANET PAQUETTE



**HEARTFELT MEMORIES**  
SINI DEN OTTER



**WHY INGLEWOOD?**  
JIM REYNOLDS



**A RICH FAMILY HISTORY**  
JENNA BOONSTRA

# BETWEEN THE PEWS

## CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF GROWING TOGETHER

By Pastor John Ooms

Samaan and Rima Abiad, recently from Syria, were drinking coffee with my family in our living room. We had all come from Sunday morning worship. During our conversation, Samaan brought up photos on his phone of their church in Aleppo, Syria, a large and beautiful building with stunning icons decorating the interior. “We’ve been worshipping here for 900 years,” he casually commented. “Wow!” I thought.

We’ve been worshipping together as Third/Inglewood Christian Reformed Church for 65 years. It seems to me that we are a young congregation nowhere near retirement. In these 65 years we have contributed our part to the story of Christ’s Church on earth. We stand in the good company of prophets, apostles, martyrs, and Christian believers who make up a living community of witness to Jesus Christ. For the last 25 years, we have done our part from the corner of 124th Street and 113th Avenue. Even now I hear the sounds of vitality: someone is drilling hard into the concrete wall I share with



the kitchen downstairs. The kitchen is undergoing a rebuild for the sake of ministry in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our vision is that we are “growing together as disciples of Jesus Christ.” We grow together through worship, through fellowship, through congregational care, and through reaching beyond ourselves. Together we acknowledge and celebrate the way God has included us in his continuing work of bringing all things in heaven and on earth together under Jesus Christ.

This issue of our newsletter is meant to honour our 65th anniversary as a congregation. On Sunday, May 14, we will celebrate this reality in worship and have communion around the Lord’s Table.

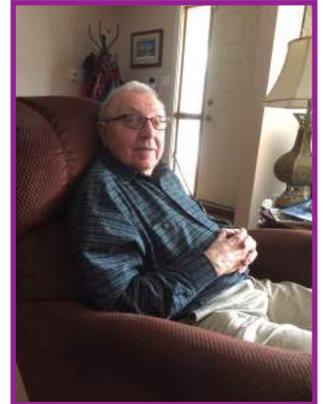
We are blessed to be able to live in anticipation of how our part in the story will continue through the work of the Spirit among us in the years ahead. I wonder what kind of memories our children will talk about. I wonder what kind of photos of us they might be showing.

## WITNESS TO GOD'S GRACE OVER 65 YEARS

By Janet Paquette

As Evert Emmelkamp sits in his easy chair, reflecting on his years at Inglewood/Third, he fits the image of a respected Father of the Congregation. Evert's signature is on the charter that founded our church on Feb. 22, 1952. Of the 40 people who signed the original document, only Evert is still attending services regularly.

But his presence today is far removed from his status in 1952 in the brand new congregation. As a 23-year-old who had also been a charter member of Second CRC a year earlier, Evert was not invited to join the men on Third's consistory, a snub he later overcame with years of service as church treasurer, deacon and elder.



“Oh no, in those days if you were not married, you couldn't be on council,” he laughs. “The old guys wouldn't let you in.”

***Evert Emmelkamp***

Still, the early 1950s were exciting times for a young guy who immigrated to Canada with his family as “a nice adventure.” He remembers the rapid growth of Christian Reformed congregations, all located just north of the downtown core. “There was a new family every Sunday,” he recalls.

Evert left the overcrowded Second Church with other single friends who had joined about 30 families to start a new congregation. One friend was charter member Jan Jager, better known to the Ooms family as Bernice's dad.

“It became a big group very fast,” Evert says of Third's beginnings, when worship services were held in a former synagogue at the top of Grierson Hill. After two years, the congregation was able to buy the former Central United Church building, a spacious sanctuary with a large balcony, on 106th Avenue and 99th Street.

“In those days, you were dependent on each other, absolutely,” says Evert. “No one would leave the church because they would lose all communication and support. Those church services were well attended! Yes, that was quite a difference from today.”

Large young people's societies also contributed to energy and growth in the Christian Reformed community, attracting the annual denomination-wide youth convention to Edmonton in 1959. Evert was in the middle of the action.

“That's how you made friends, how you got to meet your future mate,” he says with a twinkle in his eyes. “You didn't get to know people by standing on the sidelines!”

Evert didn't waste time on the sidelines, marrying his wife Freda in 1959. With an accounting degree from the University of Alberta, he was then already five years into a long career with the provincial government. Their three children, Ernie, Theo and Carol, were born in the 1960s, a

## Founding Members

On Feb. 22, 1952, Third Christian Reformed Church was founded with 32 families and eight single people as Charter Members, for a total membership of 178. Names listed on the 1952 charter are:

- W. Baker, family, three children
- A. Brouwer, family, four children
- G.C. Buma, family, four children
- S. Bosch, family, two children
- A. DeBree, family, eight children
- G. DeGraaf, family, two children
- J. DeHoog, family, nine children
- A. DeJong, family, five children
- J.M. DenHartog, family, five children
- Mr. Mrs. P.M. Dubbeldam
- Evert Emmelkamp
- Herman Groenewegen
- R. Groenewold, family, four children
- P. Hoekstra, family, four children
- Mr. Mrs. G. Hofstede
- L.J. Hofstede, family, four children
- Jan Jager
- K. Klooster, family, four children
- Haebele Lettinga
- L. Lubbers, family, four children
- P. Lucas, family, four children
- Herman Molenkamp
- H. Noppers, family, four children
- Mr. Mrs. H. Poepjes
- Mr. Mrs. A.J. Smit
- Hugo Spilker
- N. Spronk, family, seven children
- Mr. Mrs. S. Tolsma
- J. Vander Maas, family, seven children
- C.W. Vander Sluys, family, four children
- L. Vander Vaart, family, four children
- C. Vander Zwan, family, one child
- Mr. Mrs. T. Vander Zwan
- G. Van Driel, family, one child
- Mr. Mrs. K. Van Wolde
- Anna Westra
- Reintje Westra
- H.A. Wierenga, family, five children
- J.C. Teeuwsen, family, three children
- P. Zijlstra, family, five children

time when multiple baptisms every few weeks were not unusual at Third CRC.

As an accountant, Evert was a natural choice for church treasurer, a position he held for years, often while serving on council. He remembers the congregation always met the budget, despite the struggle many single-income families faced with large numbers of kids, all attending Christian schools.

“There was commitment in those days. People were committed to the Christian school and they were committed to the church. How did they do it? There was no such thing as holidays. You couldn't afford it.” Evert pauses, frowning. “But don't kid yourself. There were also people who didn't give anything to the church, even though they all showed up to the congregational meeting.”

As Evert rereads the list of charter members in Inglewood's 50th anniversary book, he is sombre. “You remember them all, you know? You depended on each other.” The kind of commitment shown by immigrants who survived a war and raised big families in a new country can't be duplicated today. Evert concedes slipping church attendance reflects a worldwide phenomenon. But he worries about students who vanish from church life after they graduate from high school.

Evert may sound old school when he advocates renewed evangelism, but he is forward thinking in how that could be achieved. “You've got to make better use of technology. A lot of churches make use of live streaming. You would pull in people who are shift workers, or they're out of town. Keep them connected.”

In an era where church seems to be a low priority for Canadians, Evert's long-standing membership at Inglewood/Third is cause for thanksgiving. The Emmelkamps are closely bound to our worship community, having experienced God's grace through fellow believers in times of sorrow and joy.

After many years of serving in vital capacities in church leadership, Evert is content to leave the decision-making to others and, ultimately, to God. But his commitment to our congregation as an instrument of God's kingdom remains strong. After all, he learned from some of the best 65 years ago.



## HEARTFELT CONNECTIONS: MY MEMORIES OF THIRD/INGLEWOOD CRC

By Sini den Otter

I have been a member of this church since 1955 and much has happened during this time. We've gone through many changes, losses, and celebrations. In 1953 my husband Job arrived in Edmonton with his family of eight, who became members of Third Christian Reformed Church. Job returned in 1955 by train and ship to Rotterdam, where I lived, to get married. After the wedding, Job and I returned to Edmonton by ship and train to start our married life. We became members of Third Church. I liked the fellowship, singing hymns from the blue book, and the old building with its pipe organ, which was played with gusto.

Dick and Joan Piekema became our best friends. As a young married couple we didn't belong to a young people's society. There were no welcoming committees or small groups who embraced us; I felt sort of lost. One Sunday when it became obvious we were expecting a baby, Job and I were looking for a seat in the crowded pews. I heard someone behind us say: Is dat stel getrouwd? (Is that couple married?) It showed it wasn't very well known we were indeed married.

Once we had our family, Job usually went to church in the morning and I to the evening service. Our four children were all baptized and married in this congregation. In those early years, so many babies were born that the baptism services were held monthly. This was

the case when our daughter Anne was baptized alongside four other infants and their families. Services were simple. The staff consisted of one pastor and the cleaning crew, the VanderHoeks.

There was a team of three basses, the pastor, custodian and organist. Council members sat up front dressed in suits; serving the Lord's Supper was a solemn occasion. I was glad Job was allowed to sit with his family when his turn came to serve as elder. Council meetings were lengthy while the elders smoked their cigars.

As time went on, women's and men's societies formed and a nursery was started. Children sat with their parents; peppermints helped them keep still. No coffee was served after church but people followed the Dutch

custom to have coffee at each other's homes, where many a tale was told about first jobs, first cars, and learning the language. Single fellows were often taken in as boarders.

When we moved to the present location we became Inglewood CRC and we have welcomed women as elders and deacons. I experienced support when the proposal was made to make me a Deacon at Large, a designation under which I could proceed with my training as chaplain. That was thirty years ago. There was some opposition, but I am still thankful for the support I did receive which enabled me to



***Sini and Job Den Otter in  
1955, shortly after  
arriving in Edmonton.***

complete my training and receive the official designation of hospital chaplain. I did receive the endorsement of Classis Alberta North and of the Chaplain's Committee in Grand Rapids. In 1988 I was hired as chaplain at the Grey Nuns Hospital. I sensed God's presence in this journey.

Inglewood has become more sophisticated in presenting the gospel in keeping with the times and in order to reach out to our neighbours. Many



***Sini Den Otter***

of our elderly members have passed away, including my husband Job. I feel a sense of loss as these men and women formed a link to the past that is slowly eroding, leaving behind the legacy of bringing a Reformed view to the immigration period of the fifties. I believe that God was there in all our endeavours, and that God will be faithful in the years to come until Jesus returns. May God bless all of us.

## A RICH FAMILY HISTORY

By Jenna Boonstra, Youth Program Coordinator

Inglewood Christian Reformed Church has been a rich part of my family history. My mom started attending what was then called Third CRC with her own family at a young age, and over time my parents chose to grow their own family at what would later become Inglewood. When I was younger than I am now, I attended Inglewood services with my parents – not to say that I didn't enjoy it. I have many memories of good times in our Sunday School, Gems, and Catechism programs, and of all of the relationships I was able to build along the way. I am blessed to have had some of the relationships I built as a young child here strengthen and flourish as time has gone on. I hope that these relationships will continue to expand and include an even broader community.



***Boonstra Family***

In a busy and often confusing world, coming to Inglewood on a Sunday, and now also throughout the week, encourages me in a multitude of ways. I am blessed by a community that is committed to comforting and caring for its members when it is needed most. It is wonderful watching unexpected interactions take place both inside and outside of church between individuals of all ages and backgrounds. I am inspired by individuals who are passionate about kingdom work and pursue it constantly. I am amazed at how many congregation members I am able to witness investing their spare time into various organizations and greater community initiatives that function in our church, and all over the city. And finally, it is at Inglewood that I am constantly refreshed by Sunday morning sermons that rightly convict where I need it most, while always pointing and leading to hope and truth we can trust in.

My own motivations for attending Inglewood have changed over time. Today as a young adult, I choose to attend Inglewood because I am hopeful for the kingdom vision that we as a church are striving for together. My own responsibilities to this church have grown in very different and unexpected ways and I am hopeful that there will be more responsibilities to take on, and more gifted people to take them. There is so much work to do and so many people to do it; let us continue pursuing the kingdom vision together.

## THE LORD PROTECTS THE STRANGERS: A BRIEF HISTORY OF INGLEWOOD CRC

By Ary De Moor (Article excerpted from the *Getting to Know you Binder*)

Painted above the first pulpit of Third Christian Reformed Church when it began on February 22, 1952 were the words from Psalm 146: "The Lord Protects The Strangers." The text was actually written in Dutch, "De HERE Behoedt De Vreemdelingen," since most of the new members were very recent immigrants from the Netherlands who felt like strangers in a new land.

A lot has changed since then – and a lot has not. The location of the church has changed a number of times. The name has changed from Third CRC to Inglewood CRC so as to better reflect the location and mission of the church. God is still worshipped, the gospel of Jesus Christ is still preached, the Holy Spirit continues to move in the hearts of our members, and the Bible leads us in our daily lives.

Most of us no longer feel like 'strangers' – but the Inglewood community houses many people who do. That's why the same words are now inscribed at the front door of our church. Inglewood church chose to be one of the Lord's instruments in welcoming and preserving all who wish to worship the Lord and to find fellowship with God's people. Here, in short, is how we came to this place.

A new land, a new language, a group of new immigrants, a firm trust in God and a strong need for fellowship led to the formation of a

new church in 1952. A third church became necessary because the flood of new European immigrants after World War II filled the first and second CRC churches to overflowing. Thirty-two families and eight single people formed the nucleus of the Third church.

The first official meeting place was the old Jewish synagogue on 95<sup>th</sup> Street that was purchased by the new church. The fellowship was warm but the heating system wasn't! One service was held in English, the other in Dutch.



The congregation grew quickly. In 1953, some members left Third to form the Beverly (now Maranatha) CRC and in 1954, others left to form the Jasper Place (now West End) CRC. Growth continued rapidly and in

1954 the large old Central United Church on 106<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 99<sup>th</sup> Street was purchased to house the many members of Third CRC.

By 1961, Third church became one of the largest CRC churches in Canada with over 260 families as members. An evangelism program was instituted through Third church, which resulted in the formation of Glad Tidings church in 1966. In 1962 and 1968, groups of members left Third to form churches in Ottewell and the Northeast (Trinity). The first all-English Sunday services were held in April, 1965.

August 1970 marked another major turning point when, because of the location of many of its members around the Christian schools, Third CRC moved in with the St. James United Church congregation on 107<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 143<sup>rd</sup> St. Costs were equally shared and Third church came armed with the pipe organ taken from our earlier building. This was a time for new growth, new evangelism projects, and new church education programs for young and old alike.

When the St. James United congregation disbanded in 1991, Third was faced with either buying the building outright or moving to another location. After many congregational meetings, it was decided to purchase the vacant Westminster United building on 124<sup>th</sup> St. and 113 Ave. The name 'Third CRC' was changed to Inglewood CRC to better reflect the community in which we relocated and to express our desire to become part of the Inglewood community. Our only material possession, the pipe organ, was taken along to the new building and rebuilt. The tremendous effort to restore the building tied us together yet

again. Our first worship service was held Easter Sunday, April 19, 1992.

Since the move, Inglewood church has grown tremendously. Outreach programs for community members and church members have brought many new people into our fellowship. Worship services and education programs have strengthened our members and have demonstrated the very real work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. When the newly renovated building became too small, the members of Inglewood pledged to stay in the community and to expand their facilities to accommodate all who wished to enter our doors. In May of 2000 we opened the new facilities.



*Our beautiful pipe organ has accompanied us from early days to present.*

Getting to know one another and getting to know those in the Inglewood community is a chief goal of Inglewood church. Inglewood church is living proof of God's protection for all who are strangers: let us carry on God's work as we bring the Gospel of Christ and the protecting love of God to all who knock on our doors.

**#1: Old Jewish Synagogue on 95 St. (1952 - 1954)**



**#2: 106 Ave. and 99 St., (1954 - 1970)**



**#3: 107 Ave. and 143 St., shared with St. James United Church. (1970 - 1992)**



**#4: Inglewood CRC pre-renovation (1992 - 2000)**



**Inglewood CRC, present day**

**The building where we worshiped may have changed throughout the years, but our heartfelt love for God, each other, and our neighbours has remained constant.**

**Although not all are able to regularly attend services, five original Charter Members remain in our church family:**

- **Geraldine Brouwer (Vander Vaart)**
- **Wytze Brouwer (A. Brouwer Family)**
- **John DeGraaf**
- **Evert Emmelkamp**
- **Harriet Wierenga**

## WHY INGLEWOOD?

By Jim Reynolds, Worship Director

When I served as pastor at a local Baptist church, I visited other churches in Edmonton once a year for the purpose of learning what they did well. I would enter these churches about 10 minutes before start time and stand conspicuously off to one side in the foyer, waiting to see how many attendees would go out of their way to greet me. I did this intentionally as a way to evaluate the “friendliness” of each church. In many cases, the results were disappointing – not even one person would speak to me. On a couple of occasions someone would say hello, but not attempt to engage in a conversation.

The first time I visited Inglewood I came incognito. I was interested in the position of Worship Director, but wanted to evaluate the church before pursuing it further.

I followed my usual practice of arriving 10 minutes early, and was greeted at the front door with a warm handshake. Moving up to the lobby my wife and I were greeted by the official greeters, then quickly greeted by several other folk. We entered the church, walked to the far aisle and sat half way up. Hardly had we found our seats before we were greeted by a family seated behind us. The exuberance of the greetings was wonderful!

During the worship that Sunday we were delighted to hear songs written by Keith & Kristyn Getty. This contemporary couple write beautiful, theologically rich songs, and were already among our favourite worship artists. We were also delighted by how well the people at Inglewood sang – a lost art in many churches!

The Sunday I visited, Inglewood recited a creed, something I used to do weekly in my Anglican church, but rarely in my evangelical churches. It was encouraging to be in a church where theological substance was more important than emotional excitement.

The “pièce de résistance” came when Pastor John rose to preach. Expository preaching is a rarity these days, but something I value highly, and the way I

was trained to preach in Seminary (by a Presbyterian!) Pastor John preached an excellent expository sermon, with confidence and eloquence.

My wife and I both left the service that day thinking that we could gladly be a part of such a church. And that’s the story of why an Anglican/Baptist/Alliance guy became part of a 65-year-old Reformed church!



*Jim Reynolds  
began his ministry  
at ICRC on  
September 2, 2014*

## WHY MY HEART IS IN INGLEWOOD CHURCH: A YOUNG ADULT'S PERSPECTIVE

By Zoe Rozema

I've been asking myself lately what it is that keeps me coming back to Inglewood every Sunday. Young people growing up in the CRC each develop a unique preference for a community network that will best uplift them on their walk. These preferences seem to lead some to depart from the community of Inglewood, though a number also stay.

I can only reflect on my own path, and so I'd like to share my perspective on the joy, support, and inspiration I find at Inglewood – the reasons why I stay.

Entering the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, the first thing I can expect are a dozen waves, smiles, and sincere greetings. This community cares deeply for its members and this is evident to me by the encouraging words and thoughtful questions I receive every week. Many in the congregation have known me since I was very young, though I have had the true joy of increasingly knowing them as I've grown up.

I also find a great deal of joy in my own involvement, which lately includes sharing my love for singing through praising God with the worship team and through choir. I've also been blessed to find myself corralling twelve and thirteen-year-olds every Tuesday evening and sharing conversation with them about our beliefs and questions as Christians.

Clearly, Inglewood CRC's community has an amazing ability to provide its members with chances to share their gifts with each other. We have members who volunteer their time to provide emotional and spiritual support to fellow members, those who work hard to revitalize and upkeep the building, and those who organize the nursery, Power Hour and youth programs. It is inspiring to be part of a church whose members use their unique skills to bring joy, healing, and change to those they touch.

Inglewood's God-guided theological leaders are another huge reason for my continued attendance. Sunday services never fail to lend me encouragement and joy. I am continuously learning about God's personality and his promise through engaging, relatable, and often humorous messages.

I've noticed that a few recurring words in what I've written are inspiration, support, and joy. Perhaps the perfect way to summarize all this, to aptly describe why my heart is in Inglewood Christian Reformed Church, is that I am inspired by what I witness here.

It brings me such joy to be involved in a vibrant and supportive community in which, most importantly, our God is so beautifully and evidently present.



**Zoe Rozema**



# ALWAYS CHANGING AND STILL THE SAME

By Jim Joose, Chair of Council

I was asked to write a short reflection on my long relationship with my home church on the occasion of its 65th anniversary.

I joined Third Christian Reformed Church in 1972 when my family moved to Edmonton from Ontario. The congregation had recently sold its downtown building and taken up residence in a large building which it shared with Saint James United Church in the west end of the city. The relationship with the Saint James congregation was a happy one, characterized by mutual respect, good humour and the collegiality of a shared faith coloured by different traditions. Rev. Baldeo, one of the St. James' pastors, was fond of saying, "In this life, each of us gives expressions to our faith according to our unique tradition, but in heaven we will all be United."

Alice and I married and had our children baptized in the St. James building. It became our family's church home, and we fondly remember those times in that location.

When St. James United congregation disbanded, it sold its building. We as Third Christian Reformed Church bought the present building on 124 Street and became Inglewood Christian Reformed Church. This move was a stressor. Our church was also in the progressive vanguard of other changes happening across the denomination, not the least of which was the inclusion of women in all aspects of church leadership. Different perspectives and the general anxiety associated with change caused a decline in our membership numbers. However we witnessed that the Spirit persists and were able to thrive in our new location. Emboldened

by the evidence, we as a church sought a renewed vision and mission.

Time passed. Our children grew up, matured, and moved on to their unique callings and relationships. Retirement looms, or is upon us. Many of our friends and fellow congregants have found a church home somewhere else. Many of us have passed on to glory. Others have joined our fellowship, so that we are continuously surrounded by new faces, ideas and perspectives.

Upon reflection, it is apparent that the 65 year history of Inglewood CRC is a story of change. "No man ever steps into the same river twice," said the sage, "for it's not the same river and he's not the same man."

And yet, in the face and pace of change, there is the invariant. And that constancy is the message of the church and our experience of the church. Though the church itself is temporal and ever changing, its message is universal and changeless. As the proclaimer of a loving God incarnate, who has the whole world in his hand, the church abides and through its ministry we are blessed. Thank God for the gift that is Inglewood Christian Reformed Church.



**Jim Joose with Granddaughter Claire**



**Joose Family, early 1980s, celebrating the baptism of daughter Katie in the St. James building**